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OVERVIEW

The first full year of the Centre's operation was characterised by consolidation and extension of the initiatives established in late 2006. These included the seed funding for research projects, publication and related activities, the development of the Advisory Board and the continuation and development of the Management Committee.

A number of new activities began, including the inaugural seminar program, the establishment of a research publication series, a website and refinement of the research career development activities, including workshops, mentoring and seed funding.

Centre members continued to enjoy success with publications, and national and internationally competitive research grants.

The Centre's founding Director, Professor Krishna Sen was appointed Director of the Humanities of the Australian Research Council and was succeeded as Director by Professor Graham Seal. The Centre farewelled Dr Sue Summers as project Administrator at the end of 2006, appointing Dr Dawn Bennett to that position from early 2007.

For 2008 the Centre expects to continue developing its national and international profile, to consolidate researcher career management and contribute further to a vibrant Humanities research culture.

AIMS AND PHILOSOPHY

The Centre for Advanced Studies in Australia, Asia and the Pacific (CASAAP), established in 2006, aims to understand the changing relationship between Australia and the countries of Asia and the Southwest Pacific. CASAAP members are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and intellectual orientations and seek to foster closer links between Australian, Asian and Pacific studies.

The Centre's values stem from the broad research traditions of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, valuing collegiality, critical analysis, intellectual engagement and the communication of knowledge throughout the academy and beyond.
Dr Dawn Bennett (Project Administrator)
Dr Mary Besemer
Prof Linda Briskman
Prof Colin Brown
Assoc Prof David Charnock
Assoc Prof George Curry
Assoc Prof Tim Dolin
Dr Jaya Earnest
Ms Lucy Fiske
Dr Anne-Marie Hilsdon
Dr Gina Koczberski
Adjunct Prof John McGuire
Dr Alexey Muraviev
Prof Richard Nile
Dr Bobbie Oliver
Assoc Prof Bob Pokrant
Dr Suvendrini Perera
Dr Nonja Peters
Prof Graham Seal
Prof Krishna Sen
Mr Stephen Smith
Assoc Prof John Stephens
Assoc Prof Wanning Sun
Dr Yasuo Takao
Dr Miyume Tanji (Postdoctoral Fellow)
Dr Reena Tiwari
Dr Grace Zhang
The Centre’s day-to-day operations are the responsibility of a management group chaired by the Director. For 2007 members were:

Professor Graham Seal (Chair)
Associate Professor Bob Pokrant (Deputy Director)
Dr Suvendrini Perera
Dr Wanning Sun
Associate Professor George Curry
Dr Miyume Tanji
Dr John Stephens

The Centre has an Advisory Board consisting of:

Emeritus Professor Peter Reeves (Chair)
Curtin University of Technology
Professor Brij V Lal
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Australian National University
Dr Susan Maushart
Curtin University of Technology
Mr Neville Roach
Independent
Dr Peter Stanley
Director Historical Research Centre
National Museum of Australia
The Centre has three main areas of research:

- social-cultural, economic, political and environmental change in Australia, Asia and the Southwest Pacific;
- Asian, Southwest Pacific and related ethnic communities within Australia and the region, and
- changing relations between Australia, Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

Under the rubric ‘Regional Intersections’, the Centre operates a broad research agenda that provides for a range of specialist activities within a cross-disciplinary framework.

To progress these activities the Centre has developed three major research foci within which are pursued a number of cognate themes. Members of the Centre are mostly involved in two, sometimes three of these research themes, providing for collaborative cross-disciplinary outcomes. Each of the themes is under continual review, while the research foci are reviewed regularly to ensure ongoing relevance, to allow for emerging and innovative research developments and to accommodate membership changes within the Tier 1 group.

**Cultural Identities:**
- National identity/ies
- Gender and sexuality
- Class formations
- Race and ethnicity
- Indigeneity, Colonialism/Post-colonialism
- Childhood
- Literature Language and Media

**Regional Transformations**
- Heritage
- Tourism
- Regional development
- Health
- Social and cultural policy
- Sustainable environments
- Natural Resource Management, and sustainable livelihoods

**International and Interrigional Relations**
- Terrorism and fundamentalism
- Refugees, asylum seekers, immigration
- War and peace, memorialisation
- Transnational political and social movements
- Human rights
- Government and political systems
- Global environmental change.

Most CASAAP research is cross-disciplinary in nature, applying knowledge and insights derived from both discipline-specific and inter-disciplinary research. CASAAP members typically work in a number of cognate and/or contiguous fields, seeking to understand complex social, cultural, economic, strategic, historical and contemporary movements, issues, events and trends, many of which have extremely important consequences within, between and beyond our focus regions.

**Major Research Projects**

- Adapting to natural and human-induced hazards: fishers and shrimp farmers in coastal Bangladesh (Bob Pokrant)
- An interdisciplinary study of literary tourism and literary subjectivity (Tim Dolin) ARC Discovery project.
- Anglos Abroad: Memoirs of Immersion in a Foreign Language and Culture (Mary Besemeres) ARC Discovery project.
- Artist as Academic (Dawn Bennett). Partner: University of Western Sydney.
- Caring for Asylum Seekers in Australia: Bioethics and Human Rights (Linda Briskman)
- Childhood, Tradition and Change: a national study of the historical and contemporary practices and significance of Australian children’s playlore (Graham Seal) ARC Linkage project.
Citizenship and Race in Rural and Regional Australia (Linda Briskman and Suvendrini Perera)

Colonial publishing and literary democracy in Australia (Richard Nile and Tim Dolin)
ARC Discovery project.

Contested Landscapes and Divided Communities. The Struggle for Place and Belonging in Papua New Guinea (George Curry and Gina Koczberski)
ARC Discovery Project.


East Perth Power Station and the Electrification of Western Australia: Interpretation of an Historic Site (Bobby Oliver)
ARC Linkage project. Partners: National Trust of Australia (WA); State Records Office of WA; East Perth Redevelopment Authority; Western Power Corporation; Engineers Australia; Town of Vincent; East Perth Football Club; State Library of Western Australia; Unions WA: Australian Society for the Study of Labour History (Perth Branch).

English as a spoken lingua franca in ASEAN: a study of its linguistic and socio-cultural features (ARC Discovery Project) (Grace Zhang)

Flagship Union: A history of the Locomotive Engine Drivers, Firemen’s and Cleaners Union of Western Australia (LEDFCU) - 1886-1999 (Bobby Oliver)

Footsteps of the Dutch in Australia 1606-2006 (Nonja Peters)

Gallipoli 2015 (Graham Seal). Partners: Deakin University; University of Otago; University of Queensland.

Improving Productivity and the Participation of Youth and Women in the PNG Cocoa, Coconut and Oil Palm Industries (George Curry and Gina Koczberski). Partners: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, PNG Oil Palm Research Association and Cocoa and Coconut Institute of PNG.

Junction Zones: Multiethnicity in Australasia and the Pacific (Suvendrini Perera)
ARC Discovery project. Partners: University of Sri Lanka; National University of Malaysia (UKM); University of the South Pacific.

LIFE - Learning Interactively for Engagement: development of an innovative teaching and learning program to meet the needs of refugee students in two Western Australian Universities (Jaya Earnest) Carrick Institute study. Partner: Murdoch University.

Living Through Terror: (Post) Trauma, (Post)Conflict and the South (Suvendrini Perera and Antonio Traverso)

Maid in China: Internal Migration and Translocal Imagination (Wanning Sun) ARC Discovery project.

Making the transition (Dawn Bennett). Partner: West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Media and the Rural Migrant in China (Wanning Sun)

‘My Place’ - The needs of homeless youth and adequacy of service provision in Mandurah (Reena Tiwari) Curtin Strategic Grant project.

Playing Safe: An engaging Approach to Preventing Injury in Young Upper String Players (Dawn Bennett)
Reinventing Japan: From Merchant Nation to Civic Nation (Yasuo Takao)

Remembering the Wars: Community Significance of Western Australian War Memorials (John Stephens, Graham Seal and Stephen Smith). ARC Linkage project. Partner: RSLWA.

Service responses to elder abuse in WA: Identifying rights based practice (Linda Briskman and Lucy Fiske) Partners: Office of the Public Advocate, Office of Senior Interests and Volunteering.

The Dutch at Fairbridge Village (Nonja Peters)

The Life and Times of Thomas Wood (Graham Seal and Dawn Bennett). Partners: Oxford University, National Centre for English Cultural Tradition at Sheffield University, English Folk Dance and Song Society, National Library of Australia, National Film and Sound Archive.

The Outlaw Hero (Graham Seal)


Transnational Social Movements, US Military Bases and Civil Society in the Asia Pacific Region: Okinawa and Beyond (Miyume Tanji)

Using multilevel analysis to examine influences on postwar Australian federal voting (David Charnock) ARC Discovery project.

Victorian narratives, Australian stories (Tim Dolin) ARC Discovery project.
Centre members published numerous journal articles and books during the year and the Centre also published the first two titles in its series ‘Studies in Australia, Asia and the Pacific’.

**Dawn Bennett**


**Mary Besemeres**


**Linda Briskman**


**David Charnock**


George Curry


Timothy Dolin

Jaya Earnest


Lucy Fiske

August 2007: Submission regarding the Proposed WA Human Rights Act


Gina Koczberski


Anne-Marie Hilsdon


Editor Special Issue of The Australian Journal of Anthropology entitled ‘Woman and Agency: Asian Explorations’.

John McGuire


Alexey Muraviev


Bobbie Oliver


Suvendrini Perera


Nonja Peters


Bob Pokrant


Graham Seal


Krishna Sen

Stephen Smith
**John Stephens**


**Wanning Sun**


**Dr Yasuo Takao**


**Miyume Tanji**

**Grace Zhang**


CASAAP has developed a comprehensive approach to research training that transfers existing expertise within the group from those who have it to those who need it. At the same time, the approach aims to stimulate a cooperative research environment within which members may further develop their research interests and also identify potential research partners within the group.

- Program of development funding for support of primarily ARC grant applications, publications and targeted conference contributions and associated outcomes
- Ongoing workshop series relating to publication, grant-getting skills, research project management, etc.
- Mentoring available as required on individual and small group basis
- Counselling of individual researchers when required
- Hot groups (small-medium groups including both ACR/s and ECR/MCRs with focus on a specific research outcome, usually grant or book)
- Seminar program of CASAAP and visitors (with publication outcomes)

- Identification and encouragement of potential linkages, collaborations and partnerships within the group through management group knowledge of individual researcher activities and aims
- Establishment of a research monograph publication series, ‘Studies in Australia, Asia and the Pacific’

CASAAP researchers and research groups have many existing collaborations with government, industry, academia, cultural institutions and many communities within Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

Internally the Centre has representation from the following research entities:

- Australian Folklore Research Unit AFRU
- Australia Research Institute ARI
- Australian Regional Research Unit ARRU
- Centre for Human Rights Education CHRE
- Life Writing Research Unit LWRU
- Media Asia Research Group MARG
- Research Unit for the Study of Societies in Change RUSSIC
- South Asia Research Unit SARU

Externally the Centre has strong and enduring links with many regional, national, international institutions, including:

**National and State**
- ArtsWA
- Ausdance
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
- Australia Council for the Arts
- Australian Institute of Sport
- Australian National University
- Australian Sports Commission
- Australian Society for the Study of Labour History
- Deakin University
- Department of Education and Training
- East Perth Football Club
- East Perth Redevelopment Authority
- Engineers Australia
- Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection
- Monash University
- Murdoch University
- Museum Victoria
- National Film and Sound Archive
- National Library of Australia
- National Museum of Australia
- National Trust of Australia (WA)
- Office of the Public Advocate, Office of Senior Interests and Volunteering
Returned Services League, Western Australia
Sea Power Centre
State Library of Western Australia
State Records Office of WA
Town of Vincent
Unions Western Australia
University of Queensland
University of Western Australia
Western Power Corporation
West Australian Academy of Performing Arts
West Australian Planning Commission
West Australian Symphony Orchestra

International
Bangladesh Maritime Research Centre (MARE), University of Amsterdam
Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
Bangladesh Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University
Bodleian Library
Centre for International Heritage Activities, Amsterdam
Cocoa and Coconut Institute of Papua New Guinea
English Folk Dance and Song Society
India Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata
Institute for Dutch History, The Hague
Institute for South East Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) Leiden
International Institute for Environment and Development, London
National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, Sheffield University
National University of Malaysia (UKM)
Papua New Guinea Oil Palm Research Association
Stout Research Centre, Victoria University
University of Amsterdam Heritage Centre
University of Otago
University of Oxford
University of Sri Lanka
University of the South Pacific

Networks
ARC Cultural Research Network node
ARC Asian Studies Research Network node
API Network
Australian Folklore Network
Gallipoli 2015

Such linkages are being constantly extended by individual researchers and groups within the Centre.
The Centre’s inaugural seminar series took the theme, ‘Changing Cultures, Changing Places.’

The series aims to showcase the research of Centre members and visiting scholars on processes of transformation and change (political, social, cultural, environmental) in Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

The series also aims to encourage broader exchanges that draw out the theoretical and practical implications of multi-disciplinary research in this field, and to contribute to current debates on change in Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

The seminars provide a forum for Centre members to share research and pursue linkages across disciplinary and regional divides.

Papers from the seminar series will be published in an edited book in 2008.

The 2007 program included the following presentations, with an additional presentation in early March by Professor Kunal Basu of the Said Business School, Oxford, 2007 Haydn Williams Fellow.

Seminar 1: 21 March 2007
Dr Wanning Sun: Maid in China: Mobile bodies, symbolic bodies.
Assoc. Professor Tim Dolin: The myth of isolation.

Seminar 2: 20 April 2007
Dr Miyume Tanji: Alliances of another kind: International social movements against US foreign bases.

Seminar 3: 16 May 2007
Professor Oren Yiftachel: Identity politics in Israel/Palestine: Reflections on ‘ethnocratic’ multiculturalism.

Seminar 4: 20 June 2007
Professor Linda Briskman: Opposing mandatory detention of asylum seekers: the role of the academic activist.

Seminar 5: Thursday 16 August 2007
Professor David Goodman The new rich in China: why there is no new middle class.

Seminar 6: 19 September 2007
Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay India: In search of a nation and its other histories.

Seminar 7: 17 October 2007
Dr Jaya Earnest: Conflict, health and vulnerability: the impact of forced displacement in East Timor.

Ian Chalmers: Islam in Indonesian Borneo: mystic Sufism, universal norms, political tolerance

Seminar 8: 21 November 2007
Dr Dawn Bennett: Creating sustainable creative practice: understanding Australia’s cultural workforce.
In addition to the achievements noted previously, a number of Centre members were honoured with awards and appointments, including:

Anne-Marie Hilsdon edited and wrote the introduction for a Special Issue of the premier *The Australian Journal of Anthropology* entitled ‘Woman and Agency: Asian Explorations’.

Dr Bobbie Oliver shared the WA Premier’s History Prize for *The Workshops: A History of the Midland Government Railway Workshops* (UWA Press), co-edited with Dr Pat Bertola.

Dr Dawn Bennett was awarded the prestigious Callaway Doctoral Award for her thesis ‘Classical Instrumental Musicians: Educating for Sustainable Professional Practice’, which was awarded with Distinction at the University of Western Australia in 2005.

Dr Alexey Muraviev Chaired and acted as a principal contributor to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute forum set up to provide policy advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet before the 2007 APEC Heads of State meeting.

Professor Graham Seal was made a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of his research and academic activities.

Advisory Board member Mr Neville Roach received a Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from the Indian government, the first time such an award has been made to an Australian.